ERRATIC WEATHER RESULTS IN LOWER CROPS IN AFRICA
AND AVERAGE CROPS IN WEST ASIA

Early forecasts that the 1969 cereal harvest in North Africa would equal last year's record crop have failed to materialize. For the coming year, North Africa's anticipated breadgrain deficit will exceed 3 million tons.\(^1\) Acreage planted to food crops is estimated near normal levels, but excessive rains in some areas and drought in others have severely reduced yields in portions of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya. Production in the United Arab Republic and the Sudan, however, is reported average or better. Both countries should have more cotton available for export. North Africa will also have exportable quantities of olive oil, rice, wine, citrus fruit, and hides and skins.

In West and Central Africa effects of last year's erratic weather are still being felt. Widespread drought (notably in Niger, Upper Volta, Mali, Senegal, and Mauritania) caused a shortage in subsistence food crops, necessitating U.S. food donations under Title II of Public Law 480. The shortage should end when the 1969 crops of millet, sorghum, corn, and other food crops are harvested in October and November. Early estimates place the 1969/70 coffee crop in the Ivory Coast at a level 14 percent above the previous crop. In Liberia, rubber production is increasing as more new high-yielding trees come into production. In the Congo, several basic food crops have essentially achieved pre-independence production levels; palm oil production there is up from 1968. But Senegalese peanut production during the 1968/69 season plummeted to the lowest level of recent years because of extensive drought.

Due to Rhodesia's record crop, 1969 output of corn in Southern Africa was up about 400,000 tons. While too much rain reduced Zambia's crop slightly, production in the Republic of South Africa was off about 350,000 tons from last year due to drought. Prospects are good for South Africa's winter grain crops—wheat, barley, oats, and rye. The Republic's record citrus
crop last year was of outstanding quality and provided all-time high export earnings. Deciduous fruit production and export were also higher; 1969's deciduous crop is estimated to be slightly larger than 1968's. Though there were spots of drought, grazing conditions over most of Southern Africa favor a slight increase in livestock numbers.

East Africa's agricultural outlook for 1969 is good. Major cash crops are expected to equal or exceed last year's output. Tea and cotton production should show moderate gains. For cereal crops conditions are generally favorable, and Kenya's corn and wheat surpluses will likely be greater.

West Asia has experienced erratic weather conditions. Even so, the general grain situation appears good. Wheat production in Turkey will be slightly higher than last year. Turkish cotton production was up 10 percent in 1968 and production in 1969 will probably match the 1968 level despite a considerable drop in acreage. Tobacco acreage this year is slightly down in the Aegean area where plantings of Mexican wheat varieties were expanded. Early estimates indicate that Iran's wheat production did not reach last year's record harvest but its increased cotton plantings point toward another recordbreaking crop. Good fruit and nut harvests are expected in Iran. A late spring outbreak of rinderpest reduced both milk and meat supplies, especially in the Tehran area. The veterinary force moved rapidly to meet this threat.

In West Asia's Levant area, heavy spring rains benefited Syria more than Lebanon. Syria's barley suffered some, but abnormal weather caused serious losses to the Lebanese deciduous fruit crop. Current reports indicate that Israel's wheat crop for 1969 was down considerably from last year. Value of the country's citrus exports was slightly higher than last year, though export volume was down. Well-distributed rainfall in Jordan promised well above average crops for 1969. Cyprus also has received good rains and its wheat and barley crops should be good.

NORTH AFRICA

The United Arab Republic, despite lower yields, is likely to harvest a 1969 cotton crop a tenth larger than last year's 135,000-ton crop. Indications are that cotton acreage increased some 14 percent to a level of 1.7 million acres. Smaller yields were attributed to severe leaf spot disease and some leafworm infestation. A larger crop this year would mean a reversal of the previous 4-year downtrend in production.

Although official estimates are not available, indications are that UAR's grain harvest this year will equal or surpass that of a year ago. This year's harvest must be supplemented by some 2 to 2.5 million tons of wheat imports to maintain normal consumption levels. By mid-July, various European countries had contracted to supply a large portion of the UAR's wheat needs on liberal credit terms. For the past 2 years, France has become increasingly important as a supplier. Other suppliers include the USSR, Spain, West Germany, and Italy.

Reportedly, progress continues to be made in realizing economic benefits from the High Aswan Dam. Moreover, foreign aid grants and continued expansion of the petroleum industry have partially offset the adverse conditions facing the Egyptian economy in recent years.

The Sudan cotton harvest was estimated at 209,000 tons, 7 percent above last year. This increase in output reflects improved spraying and picking operations. Yields in extra-long-staple producing areas (Gezira and Managil) have improved. In the Gish and Tokar Deltas, where upland-type cotton is grown, production has increased despite acreage cutbacks.

Sudan's cotton exports in the 1968 crop year totaled $151.2 million, the highest ever reached and one-third more than in 1967. The increase was due to a larger shipping volume—up 23 percent—as well as higher prices—up 8 percent. Major buyers were West Germany, India, Italy, and USSR.

During 1969 the Sudan renewed a long-term trade agreement with the USSR to cover $23 million worth of cotton exports to the USSR in exchange for 400,000 tons of sugar and unspecified quantities of urea.

Tunisia's 1968/69 cereal production is expected to total below last year's subnormal
crop of 519,000 tons. Wheat production is estimated to be somewhat less than the previous 383,000-ton harvest. Tunisia will again have to import substantial amounts of bread wheat to meet domestic needs.

Despite last winter's drought, 32,000 acres of Mexican wheat planted in northern Tunisia produced good yields. This was attributed largely to the shorter growing season of these varieties as compared with local wheats.

**Algerian grain crops may be smaller than expected as early estimates of a near-record cereal crop have been revised downward. A good harvest of winter cereals in 1968 produced 2.1 million tons, and it was thought that this year might be even better. Latest reports indicate, however, that excessive rains at harvest time have caused officials to be much less optimistic about the outturn of this year's grain crop.**

**Morocco's grain harvest (mostly wheat and barley) may be as much as 50 percent below last year's record 4.8 million tons. This would be very near the 1960-65 average of about 2.5 million tons. The reduced crop was largely due to ill-timed and excessive rains--double the annual average in some areas. Morocco has carried over large stocks of wheat from last year, but may still have to import some bread wheat in the coming year.**

Under the joint USAID-Moroccan wheat improvement program, plantings of high-yielding Mexican wheat varieties totaled 12,400 acres. Output of these dual-purpose plantings (demonstration and seed production) did not reach the expected levels since leaf blight seriously affected them in many areas.

**Morocco and Tunisia Sign Agreements With European Community**

This year, Morocco and Tunisia took the first step toward full association with the European Community by signing 5-year agreements in March. The accords, which went into effect on September 1, provide for mutual trade preferences and for resumption of negotiations on enlarging and advancing the associations by the end of the third year.

Intra-Community customs treatment is provided for most Moroccan and Tunisian industrial products. For agricultural products, the EC lowered its common external tariff from 20 percent to 4 percent for citrus fruit originating in Morocco and Tunisia as long as the minimum offer price is observed. Crude olive oil from these two countries has a $50 per ton conditional preference over third-country imports if the minimum import price is observed. In addition, a $5 per ton unconditional preference also is granted. The EC grants either Intra-Community treatment or a 50-percent tariff reduction for some canned foodstuffs. Wine, some vegetables, and certain sugar-based preserves are excluded from Community preference, but retain privileged access to the French market.

In return, Tunisia grants preferential treatment to Community products equal to 70 percent of the preference allowed France on products representing 40 percent of Tunisia's imports from the EC. Moroccan concessions include tariff reductions averaging 12 percent on 27 customs categories. These reductions are granted on a most-favored-nation basis and therefore apply to imports from all countries.

**WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA**

**Yaounde Convention Renewed, Trade and Aid Agreements Extended 5 Years**

Negotiations for renewing the 1964-69 Association Agreement (Yaounde Convention) between the European Community and 18 African states have been completed. The new Convention was signed on July 29, 1969, at Yaounde, Cameroon. It will enter into force only after parliamentary ratification by all 24 signatories. In the meantime provisional measures guarantee the continuity of the Association. 2/

To promote financial and technical cooperation, Community members agreed to make $1 billion available to the European Development Fund. That figure includes $918 million for the Associated African States with the following breakdown:

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2/ Four signatories--Burundi, Malagasy Republic, Rwanda, and Somali Republic--are in East Africa, as defined for this midyear review.
$748 million will be in grants, $80 million in loans on special terms, and $90 million in loans through the European Investment Bank. The previous Convention included $230 million worth of aid toward agricultural production and diversification in associated countries to ease the transition from marketing under bilateral preferential systems to the proposed free trade system between EC members and associates. There is no provision in the new agreement to continue such aid. But associated countries with economies endangered by sudden declines in world prices affecting primary products will qualify, under specified conditions, for aid grants.

Trade provisions include the lowering of the EC's common external tariff for a number of tropical products (coffee from 9.6 percent to 7 percent, cocoa from 5.4 to 4 percent, palm oil from 9 to 6 percent). They also provide for an EC undertaking to grant preferences on certain African products competing with EC farm produce. Annexed to the Convention transaction is a stipulation that nothing in the agreement shall prevent an Associated African State from participating in a system of generalized preferences.

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At this time, it is too early to forecast 1969 crop production in West and Central Africa since most crops have recently been planted.

In several West African countries, the 1968/69 crop year was a lean one for many subsistence farmers. These countries—Mauritania, Senegal, Mali, Upper Volta, and Niger—which suffer from periodic droughts, experienced a severe shortage of rainfall during 1968.

Senegal's 1968 production of rice, sorghum, and millet—staples of the Senegalese diet—totaled an estimated 500,000 tons against 750,000 tons in 1967. Mali's production of millet, sorghum, corn, and rice for 1968 was estimated to be 40 percent below the previous year's 990,000-ton harvest. In Niger production of sorghum and millet, by far the most important food crops there, was adversely affected by drought, especially in the country's central region. The 1968 crop was estimated at less than 1 million tons, off considerably from the 1.34 million tons a year earlier.

Extensive and severe drought reduced Senegal's 1968/69 peanut production to the lowest level of recent years. Recent estimates place the crop close to 770,000 tons, of which 620,000 tons are to be commercialized. As a result of the poor crop, Senegal is unable to meet this year's commitments to all local and overseas peanut crushers. Peanut deliveries to oil mills are expected to be around 100,000 tons short of the total agreed upon when the season began.

In Liberia, sharp recovery of the natural rubber price is giving new bounce to its agricultural economy. The New York price of natural rubber fell as low as 16.29 cents a pound in February 1968 but rose above 30 cents by August 1969.

Rubber production is increasing, due mostly to replacement of old trees by new, higher-yielding stock. In the early 1970's, rubber production likely will increase by 5 percent a year.

In 1968, area in mature rubber trees totaled 163,500 acres. Immature trees covered 115,400 acres, with 69,700 acres on private Liberian-owned farms.

Liberian exports of natural rubber in 1967 amounted to 62,000 tons. This compares with shipments of 48,000 tons by Nigeria and 30,000 tons by Congo (Kinshasa), Africa's third largest rubber producer. (Nigerian rubber exports in 1967 were much below average because of the civil war).

Liberia's maiden industrial plant for palm oil produced its first 25 tons of red palm oil during 1968. The plant is located on the Tidewater Oil Co. plantation in Grand Bassa County. By the end of 1969, Tidewater will complete planting of its projected 5,000 acres of oil palms.

At the same time, in Grand Cape Mount County, the West Africa Investment and Finance Corporation has begun development of a 3,500-acre oil palm plantation. Technical assistance and seeds for this plantation are furnished by the French research organization IRHO (Research Institute for Tropical Oils and Oil-bearing Materials). Several thousand acres of land have been cleared, an oil palm nursery is in operation, and some transplanting is under way.

The Ivory Coast's coffee crop for 1969/70 is forecast at 4.0 million bags
(240,000 tons), 14 percent larger than the 1968/69 crop of 3.5 million bags. This level is substantially above its quota under the International Coffee Agreement.

While Ivory Coast has a rather wide list of exportable farm products (chiefly coffee, cocoa, bananas, and pineapples), coffee is the country's most important product. The size of the crop, amount exported, and price received are all important to the nation's economy.

The United States is an important customer for Ivorien Robusta coffee, much of which is used in instant coffees. The new freeze-dried process is not good news for the Ivory Coast, as this method uses less Robusta than instant coffee made by older processes.

Ghana's governing body, the National Liberation Council, has formally instituted the Cotton Development Board to promote cotton production. About 2,100 acres likely will be planted to cotton by the end of 1969. The price paid to growers for seed cotton has been increased from 5 to 7 new pesewas per pound (from 4.90 to 6.86 cents per pound). A cotton gin costing 75,000 new cedis ($73,500) is to be built at Tamale in 1970.

Cotton growing will help diversify Ghana's essentially one-crop economy (Ghana is the world's largest grower of cocoa beans) and add a cash crop to the economy of northern Ghana.

Dahomey will soon have a new peanut oil mill. This plant will have a crushing capacity of 45,000 tons of peanuts (in-shell) and produce 14,400 tons of peanut oil and 15,500 tons of peanut oil cake. A French company has been contracted by the Government to build the crushing plant. The Dahomean National Marketing Board is managing the project.

Nigerian farmers are receiving considerably more money for their cocoa beans this year than last. Grades I and II beans are bringing 50 Nigerian pounds ($140) per long ton more this year. Grade I cocoa is now £1150 per ton ($420 per ton or 18.75 cents per pound). Grade II cocoa is now £1135 ($378 per ton or 16.88 cents per pound). These rates were effective July 11, the beginning of the 1969/70 marketing season. Marketing board announcements were made simultaneously in Western, Lagos, Mid-Western, and South-Eastern States. Similar increases were announced for Kwarra State; in that minor cocoa-producing region, Grade I cocoa now brings £1152 per ton and Grade II cocoa £1137 per ton, slightly higher than in the other cocoa-producing states.

All cocoa sales are subject to a state "produce sales tax" of £14 ($11.20) per ton. It is deducted by licensed buying agents of the marketing boards.

The Northern States Marketing Board announced June 16 that it will purchase peanuts at the rate of $8.372 per long ton (3.7 cents per pound) during the 1969/70 buying season beginning October or November 1969. This represents an increase of $10.92 per long ton (0.5 cent per pound) over last year's price. As during the 1968/69 buying season, the Marketing Board will pay a uniform price in all the Northern States and will buy just one grade of peanuts. A higher world price for peanuts permits this higher price to farmers. Announcement of the increased purchase price at the beginning of the planting season will probably encourage farmers to plant larger acreages than otherwise.

Central African Republic's 1969 cotton crop may be a record. A preliminary estimate places 1968/69 production at 55,000 to 59,000 tons of seed cotton.

Farm production in Congo (Kinshasa) continues to increase following the monetary reform of 1967 and the return of internal security and stability. Basic food crops such as cassava, sweetpotatoes, and plantains have essentially achieved pre-independence production levels. But due to population growth, per capita food production in 1968 was 32 percent below the 1957-59 average. Imports of corn, wheat, and rice are necessary to make up the difference.

Palm products are the Congo's leading agricultural export and second largest foreign exchange earner, following copper. Palm oil production for 1969 is estimated at 220,000 tons compared with last year's 210,000-ton crop. Exports of palm oil in 1968 totaled 143,000 tons, compared with 1967 exports of 114,900 tons. Exports in 1969 are
expected to be above the 1968 level. The reduction of export duties from 15 to 2 percent on palm oil at the end of 1968 should help to increase exports.

Coffee and rubber, also important export crops, have registered production and export gains in recent years as more plantations resume normal production.

Helping to hold back agricultural production in the Congo is the transportation problem. While virtually all of the 1968 crop was marketed, inadequate roads, bridges, ferries, and truck transport in most farming areas may cause difficulties for the anticipated much larger 1969 harvest.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

The Republic of South Africa harvested slightly less than 5 million tons of corn in 1969 due to a severe first-quarter drought in the major producing areas. To ensure sufficient supplies of white corn for consumption and stocks, South Africa made arrangements to import 735,000 tons of Rhodesian white corn. Meanwhile, it rescinded the ban on corn exports and started exporting some yellow corn. By the end of this marketing year, the Maize Control Board expects to export about 100,000 tons of yellow corn—a rather low figure.

Corn exports for the marketing year ended April 1969 reached an estimated 2.7 million tons. This is close to the record of 3.1 million tons in 1967/68. The largest purchaser of South African corn for both years was Japan, taking 1.1 million tons in 1968/69 and 1.2 million the previous marketing year. Next came the United Kingdom with 0.8 million tons in 1968/69 and 0.9 million in 1967/68. Japan purchases large amounts of yellow and white corn, although usually more yellow. Almost all sales to the U.K. are for white corn.

Conditions are generally good for such winter grains as wheat, barley, oats, and rye. Another record wheat crop of about 1.36 million tons is expected. More farmers in South Africa are switching from corn to winter grain production.

Both production and export of fruit from the Republic of South Africa in 1968 continued an upward trend. Total fruit exports were estimated at $146.7 million, compared with $123.6 million the previous year. The United Kingdom continued to be the largest buyer.

The record 1968 citrus crop of 622,000 tons was of outstanding quality and provided record exports that reached $38.8 million. Oranges, valued at $31.7 million, were the most important export, going mostly to United Kingdom and other European countries. The 1969 citrus crop is estimated to be slightly larger than last year's record harvest. Probably more than half of the crop will be exported, since local consumption is increasing relatively slowly.

Deciduous fruit production and export also increased in 1968. Apples showed the most gain as exports rose from $9 million in 1967 to a record $33 million in 1968. Canned deciduous fruit production and export, primarily peaches, are also increasing. In 1968, exports of canned peaches were valued at $26 million.

Wool is a major export of the Republic of South Africa, averaging $163 million the past 5 years. Exports were 10 percent higher for the first 4 months of 1969 compared with the same period last year. Wool prices for 1968/69 were slightly above year-ago levels.

In much of Southern Africa, especially in South-West Africa, Botswana, Swaziland, and Lesotho, grazing conditions were generally good this past year.

The government of Rhodesia has decided to continue price supports for the 1969/70 flue-cured and burley tobacco crops set at almost 60,000 tons and 2,200 tons, respectively. However, the government has withdrawn its support for the Oriental tobacco crop, which is grown mostly by Africans.

Although the number of tobacco farms has declined since 1965, the tobacco industry is still very important in Rhodesia's economy. The government has to contribute heavily to support the industry. Not only does the government pay a support price for tobacco, but it also pays the cost to store large stockpiles of tobacco.

Rhodesia's good weather during 1969 will probably result in a quality tobacco
crop that will reach at least the amount guaranteed support by the government. This same good weather helped produce record corn and wheat harvests.

Too much rain in Zambia has resulted in a lower corn crop which will not meet domestic needs for the second consecutive year.

In Mauritius, if favorable conditions continue, the 1969 sugar crop may reach 660,000 tons, up nearly 11 percent over the 1968 harvest. The United Kingdom is the principal outlet for this sugar.

**EAST AFRICA**

**EAC Negotiates New Agreement With EC**

Representatives of the European Community (EC) and the East African Community (EAC) have agreed to renew the Arusha Agreement with some modifications. Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda are expected to sign the pact in the fall of 1969 at Arusha, Tanzania. This new agreement will be similar to the one of July 1968, which was never ratified.

The new EC-EAC pact provides for duty-free entry into the EC for all East African industrial products. For three important exports from East Africa (coffee, cloves, and pineapples) the EC has reserved the right to impose duties once imports have reached the following specified levels:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Import trigger levels</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coffee ................ 56,000 tons a year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cloves ................ 100 tons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canned pineapples...  860 tons</td>
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In turn, the EAC will grant trade preferences between 2 and 9 percent, on a list of products covering about 10 percent (by value) of the EC's exports to East Africa.

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Kenya's agriculture is expected to show an overall increase in 1969. Coffee production in 1968 was 46,000 tons; it is estimated at 50,000 tons in 1969. The deteriorating effect of the coffee berry disease has abated after extensive and effective spraying.

Tea production this year is estimated to exceed the record 30,000 tons harvested in 1968. Last year 1.5 million tons of corn were produced and a crop of 1.6 million tons is predicted for 1969. Wheat production in 1968 totaled 227,000 tons and should increase slightly this year.

During 1969 Tanzania continued to make progress in its livestock development program. A $1.3 million credit from the International Development Association (IDA) will assist in the first stage of a livestock program intended to diversify the country's agricultural production. The funds will be used to develop five large ranches encompassing 420,000 acres to increase beef output and expand breeding stock. Program development will be by the National Agricultural Company, Ltd., a subsidiary of the National Development Corp. set up by the Tanzania government.

Tanzanian coffee production in 1968 was 54,000 tons and this year's crop is forecast at that level. Production of tea should increase from 8,000 tons a year ago to a record 1969 crop of about 10,000 tons. Also, Tanzania's cotton crop will be up some 2,000 tons to an estimated 56,000 tons. But sisal production is expected to fall 10,000 tons to the 210,000-ton level.

In Uganda, agriculture supplies over 60 percent of the gross domestic product. Cotton and coffee are the largest agricultural items. Because of this heavy dependency, attempts at greater diversification are being pursued and should produce some results in 1969. More vegetables are being produced, as well as more cereals and beef cattle. New strains of cotton with higher yields and longer staples have been recently developed. These, together with slightly better prices to growers, are expected to result in a slight increase in cotton output. The coffee crop, estimated at about 165,000 tons, is below the 1968 output of 188,000 tons, but is considered near normal. Tea production is forecast at 15,500 tons, slightly above the 1968 level.

Beginning in January 1969 Uganda dropped the imperial system and began to use metric weights and measures.

Ethiopia's economy is growing annually at a modest but steady 4 to 4.5 percent rate,
despite falling prices for Ethiopian coffee the past few years. Short run prospects for a significant increase in earnings from other export products do not seem good, although promising long-range projects have been started. Both government and private investors are showing increased interest in developing the Empire's potential for production of crops and livestock. The World Bank (IBRD) has agreed to finance construction of a major hydroelectric installation on the Finchaa River, a tributary of the Blue Nile.

WEST ASIA

Turkey's 1969 wheat crop is preliminarily estimated at about 8.6 million tons, compared with 8.4 million tons last year. Production of Mexican wheat varieties currently estimated at 2.1 million tons is more than 4 times last year's crop, but yields at about 45 bushels per acre are down 5 to 7 bushels from 1968 levels. Despite the larger wheat crop, imports will be necessary to maintain a normal level of consumption. Production of barley and the other grains should be above last year.

Cotton production in 1968 was 435,000 tons. A drop in acreage for the 1969 crop is not expected to have much effect on production. This year's decline in cotton acreage occurred in the coastal regions of southern and western Turkey, where Mexican wheat varieties replaced some cotton. As a result, the upswing in cotton acreage may have been reversed.

Tobacco acreage will be slightly down this year in the Aegean area, reflecting in large part the increased area of Mexican wheat. Production for 1968 was 162,000 tons, down 12 percent from a year earlier.

The latest 1968 production estimate on filberts is 130,000 tons. Because of favorable weather conditions, the 1969 crop should be about the same. This was to have been an "off" year for Turkish filbert trees. Total exports during the current marketing year should amount to about 125,000 tons. It is also an "off" year for olives. This means a smaller total oil crop.

Except for goats, livestock numbers continue to expand, and slaughtering continues to increase. There were no imports of red meat into Turkey in 1968 but some 500 breeding animals were imported. The government continues to press its program for livestock improvement. However, per capita consumption of red meat in Turkey remains a low 14 kilograms per year.

Iran received heavy fall and spring rains which delayed grain planting and reduced the area seeded to wheat. In some areas flooding also destroyed acreage already seeded. Early estimates indicate that 1969 wheat production will not reach last year's 4.4 million tons. Torrential rains also destroyed some rice in the Caspian area, however, the output of rice this season is expected to be about 45,000 tons above last year's 970,000-ton crop due to acreage expansion and better seed selection. Weather also delayed cotton planting, but, with more acreage planted, a 25-percent increase is expected over the 145,000 tons harvested in 1968. This larger crop may cause marketing problems; early this summer, about 25,000 tons of last year's crop remained unsold.

The government, interested in expanding oilseed production, tested various kinds and varieties of oilseed crops and found that sunflowers are adaptable to Iran's climatic and soil conditions. Under the Fourth Development Plan (1969-73), Iran hopes to achieve self-sufficiency in vegetable oil production. In the past year about 120,000 tons of vegetable oils were consumed, including 45,000 tons domestically produced.

Good fruit and nut crops are expected, as most trees escaped late frosts and soil moisture is above average. For crops in general, the heavy rains probably washed away some soil salts that hinder growth and greatly improved ground water supplies.

In central Iran, around Tehran, there has been an outbreak of rinderpest. Although official figures on cattle losses are not available, losses in the province of Tehran alone were reportedly rather heavy. Khorasan Province also was affected. This outbreak led to a shortage of beef and
a drop in milk deliveries to pasteurization plants. Prompt measures by the veterinary service now appear to have the outbreak under control. There were also significant sheep losses in winter and early spring storms. However, pastures in Iran for the 1969 grazing season were excellent. This situation should help improve the country's livestock industry.

In Iraq the development budget has been increased by 29 percent with the aid of foreign loans. Iraq has several projects aimed at increasing farm output by adding irrigated acreage and upgrading dairy-poultry production. For the 1969 crop year, increases are indicated for sugar beets, cotton, and grains. Accurate estimates are not currently available.

In Syria, spring rains beneficial for most crops delayed cotton planting and reduced the area planted. Cotton and barley suffered from unfavorable weather, but a good harvest is expected for other crops. The deciduous fruit crop should be good, and favorable pasture conditions likely will result in bumper lamb and kid crops.

Lebanon's abnormally wet spring, two hailstorms, and hot winds caused serious damage and sharply reduced the 1969 fruit crop. Regional spot checks indicate that the apple crop may be off as much as 50 percent. Greater damage may have been suffered by apricots (70 percent) and pears (60 percent). Lesser damage was done to citrus fruits (estimated 20 percent) and cherries (30 percent).

Although the reduced apple crop may help to alleviate the perennial problem of disposing of surplus apples, it may seriously affect the cash income of some small farmers. The apparent lower fruit crop which will be available this year was reflected in higher prices to farmers for apricots and cherries and in higher consumer prices. Prospects of a smaller crop have also prompted greater activity by middlemen, who are making advance contracts for apples, peaches, and pears at prices reported to be substantially higher than last year.

The area planted to grains has been increased slightly and good weather conditions promise a harvest of some 50,000 tons of wheat, 12,000 tons of barley, 2,500 tons of corn, 1,400 tons of sorghum. This total of about 65,900 tons is considerably better than 1968's level of 52,200 tons. The pulse crop is expected to approximate last year's harvest.

Jordan's well-distributed rains this year, along with other favorable weather conditions, should produce well above average crops. The increasing use of improved varieties of wheat should bear favorable results and change the farming attitudes and concepts of wheat growers.

For this year, some 200,000 tons of wheat and 30,000 tons of barley are given as preliminary production estimates. These figures are somewhat above last year's levels. The generally favorable weather should result in ample moisture for fruit trees and summer crops.

Israel's wheat crop for 1968 has been finalized at 190,000 tons, about 14 percent below the 1967 record crop. This year's estimate is smaller. Wheat imports for 1968 were 346,000 tons and about the same is forecast for 1969.

Last year's agricultural exports were close to $160 million, a new high. Despite a lower export volume of citrus, good prices in European markets brought the value of citrus shipped abroad to near $86 million, about the same as last year.

Newcastle disease, which has been plaguing Israel's poultry industry since 1967, is under greater control but has not been eradicated. It has lowered egg production.

Agriculture in Cyprus has recovered well from the previous year's drought. Generally good crops are expected. Agricultural exports continue to expand, especially citrus. Agriculture accounted for 57 percent of the total value of goods exported in 1968. Citrus, potatoes, carobs, vine products, and carrots continue to find good markets in the United Kingdom, Europe, and the USSR.
This report was prepared in the Africa and Middle East Branch.